



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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PDC VIOLATIONS NET \$400,000 PENALTY

Olympia - Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, said the Superior Court ruling against the Washington Education Association on Tuesday sent a clear message that violations of the Public Disclosure Laws will not be tolerated.

“The ruling by the Superior Court reinforces the fact that individuals and organizations violating public disclosure statutes will be held to answer and intentional violations will not be tolerated,” Yorozu said.

On Tuesday, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Gary Tabor issued a civil penalty of \$200,000 against the Washington Education Association (WEA) for violating the state Public Disclosure Law and then doubled the amount to \$400,000 citing intentional violations.

The court case centered on WEA’s use of agency fee payer money for political purposes. State law requires that unions obtain “affirmative authorization” from nonmembers prior to using their monies for political campaign activity.

“The use of agency fees for political activity is specifically addressed in state statute,” Yorozu said. “A labor organization may not use agency shop fees to make political contributions or expenditures without affirmative authorization by the individuals paying those fees.”

Yorozu said the public disclosure laws have been around for more than 25 years in Washington state and the Commission will continue to vigorously enforce those laws either through it’s own enforcement authority or through the judicial system.

“The public created the Public Disclosure Commission in 1972 through the initiative process,” Yorozu said. “We, as citizen members of the Commission, have a duty to make sure the laws are enforced.”